



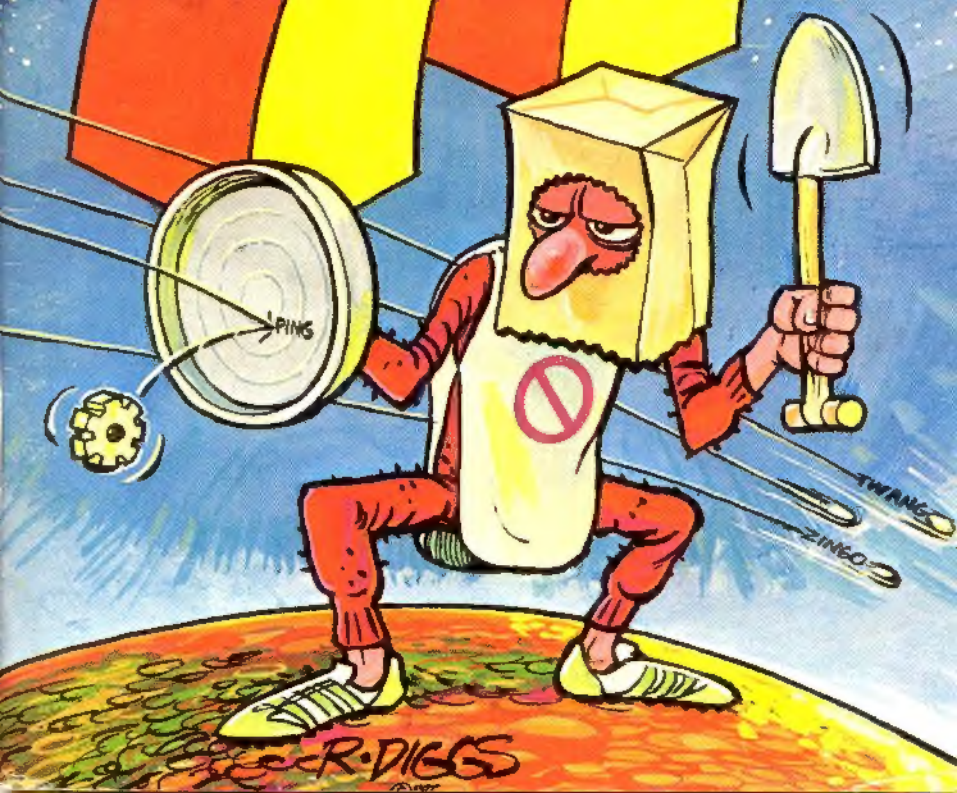
**GREAT DIGGS**

THE YEAR IN  
CARTOONS

by R. DIGGS

## THE YEAR IN CARTOONS

by R. DIGGS



R. DIGGS

# MONSTER OF THE YEAR!

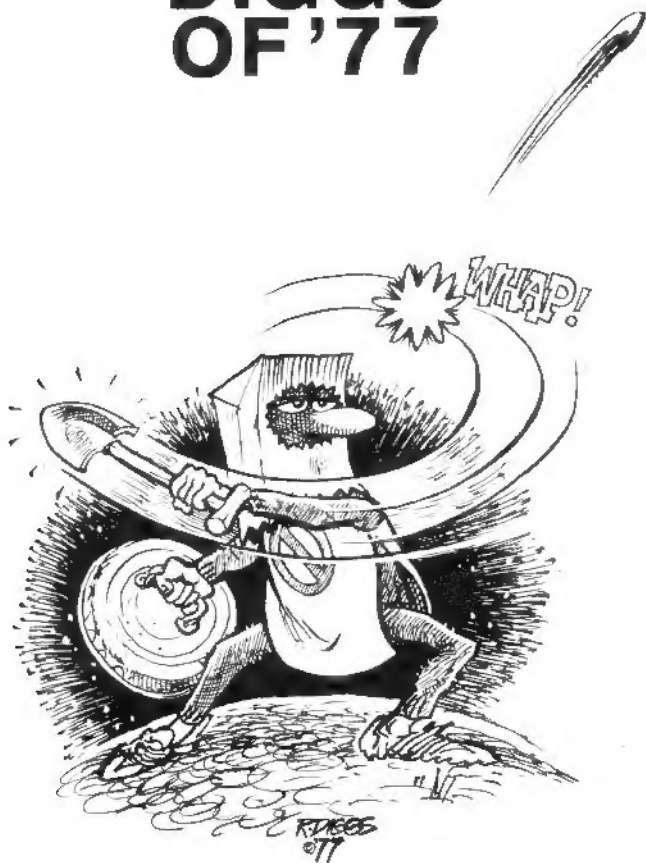
Affectionately referred to as the "cookie cutter" by the precision minded defense establishment. This monster was to end the year as THE most horrendous addition to our large anxiety diet.

ATOMIC MONSTER'S BABY BROTHER:



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# GREAT DIGGS OF '77



A CARTOONIST'S VIEW OF 1977 FROM THE  
PAGES OF THE RIP OFF COMIX SYNDICATE,  
THE BERKELEY BARB AND THE AG-BIZ TILLER BY

## R. DIGGS

R. DIGGS has long been familiar to followers of the alternative press in the San Francisco Bay area through numerous appearances in the San Francisco *Express Times*, the *Bay Guardian* and the *Berkeley Barb*. "All the Latest Diggs" is now a nationally distributed feature, being the most popular editorial cartoon of the Rip Off Comix Syndicate since the feature's inception in 1976. This book is a collection of the best from the year 1977, taken from the Rip Off Syndicate and the *Berkeley Barb*. In his self-described role as the undertaker of Western Civilization, Diggs continues to receive critical acclaim from members of the world of news commentary.

Most of the news annuals—*Life's*, the one the Associated Press puts out, etc.—concentrate on the trivia of the treaties, leaving the texture of the quotidian\* to our memories. Diggs has avoided this pitfall. His version of 1977 does not appear to be less than full when opened. In the words of a great newspaper, "All human life is here."

—Danice Bordett and Larry Lee  
*KSAN-FM, San Francisco*

\**Look it up.*

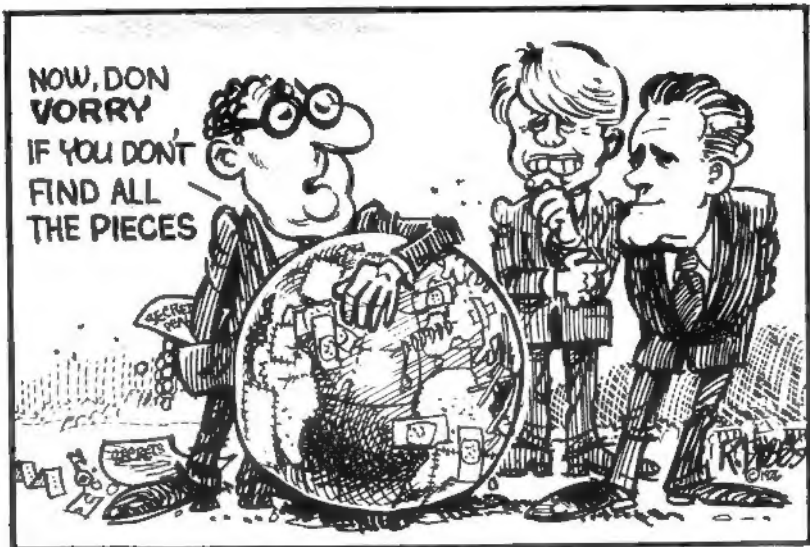
# 1977

1977 had everything going for it, including hope and promises, most of which had been uttered by Jimmy Carter. Things looked good, after all, hadn't the last remnants of the Nixon-gate era been sent back beyond the Vail? Wasn't the Dow Jones Industrial Average at a near record 1004 points? Even OPEC had agreed to hold the line on oil prices. Carter promised a new energy policy, new jobs for the unemployed, lofty goals of human rights and a gleaming smile.

Furthermore, as the year following the Bicentennial, 1977 might be expected to be more modest. '76, with its national election was at last over. Ford, who headed a non-elected incumbency passed into history with his 56 vetoes. It was awfully cold but the future seemed bright.

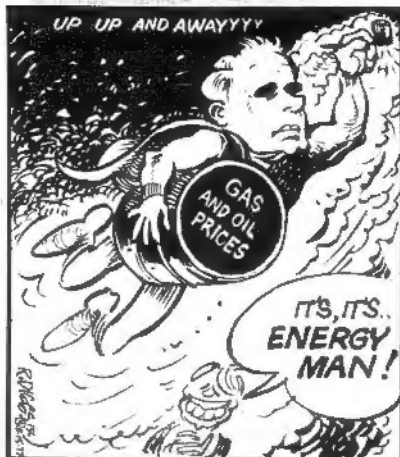






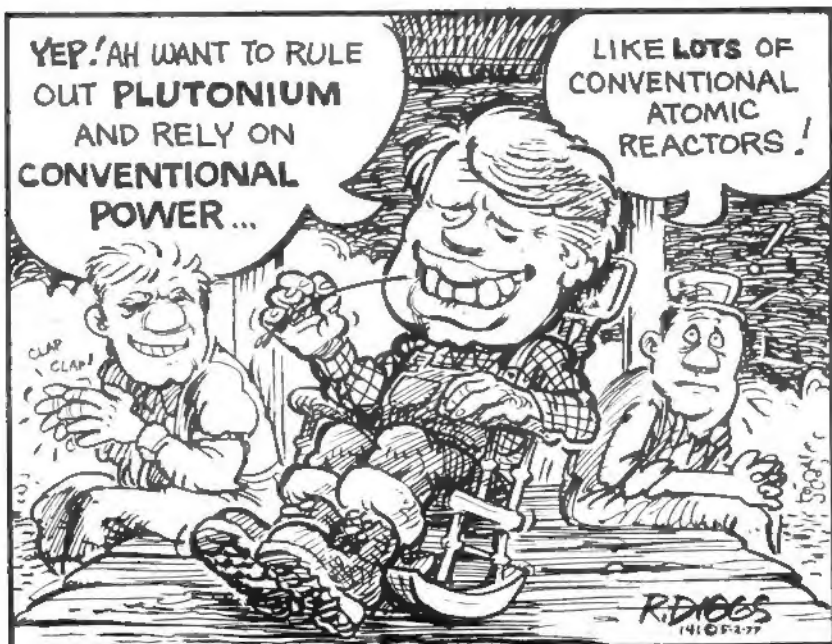
Despite apparent differences of style, things were surprisingly smooth during the changeover of administrations. Some suggested this was only natural since "all those Georgians are so friendly". Non-believers murmured words like "tri-lateral commission" and "conspiracy of insiders".







No one had expected Jimmy to keep all his promises right away. So no one was disappointed when he promised to keep some of them some time. Compound promises.





Like all truly great Presidents, Jimmy Carter has a full-fledged family. Brother Billy, who thought one day in Washington was enough, has ambitions of his own. He wants to be known as the name on a can of beer, a bar-room name across the nation. It is the women of the family who are the big movers however. They go on diplomatic missions on Air Force One and other important things.



Humpty Dumpty fell off the wall when head of OMB Bert Lance was sent back home to Georgia. Not only was Carter's affable Budget Director forced to resign, despite his boss's touching defense; the revelations of his overdrafts in Georgia banks he controlled set the financial community back 50 years.



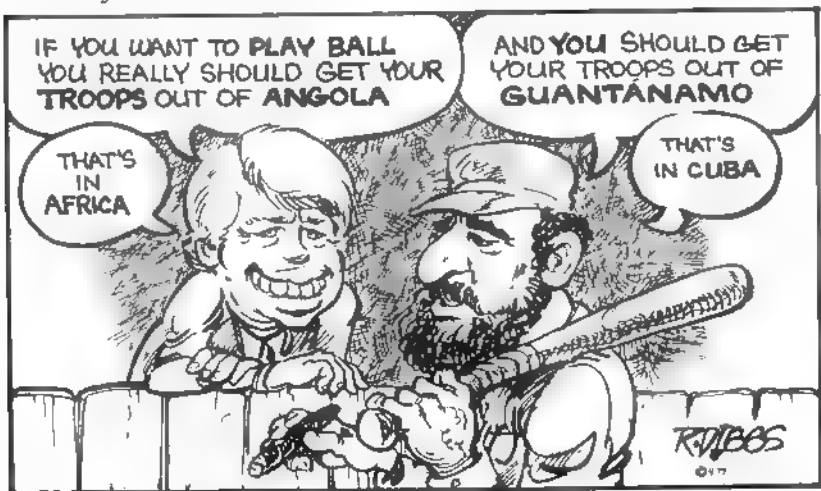


In the re-awakened holy war with Russia the Defense Department outdid itself producing new strategic weapons. The most tempting to "let's eliminate all nuclear weapons" Carter was undoubtedly that absentee landlords dream—the neutron bomb

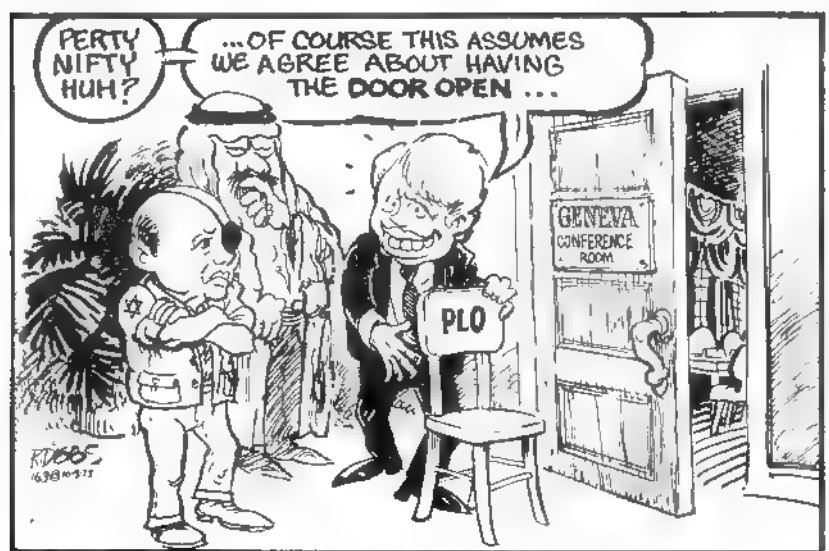




If the Republicans had discovered China, Carter, being humble, could discover Cuba. It's only 90 miles away. The administration has dropped the 16 year old travel ban and Castro gives clear directions, but Jimmy still hasn't found his way to Havana.



It was in the Middle East, that oil field of desert tensions, that Carter hoped to prove his statesmanship. But here again, with Secretary of State Vance batting zero for zero with no runs batted in, events refused to go smoothly. In fact, refusal, rejection and non-recognition were the enduring refrains all year. At least until December. At least as far as any one knew.





As the year ends, everything that seemed so promising at the beginning of the year is now mired in misunderstanding. Nevertheless, as Jimmy prepares to launch his year-end tour of the world, public opinion about the new President has become increasingly consistent.



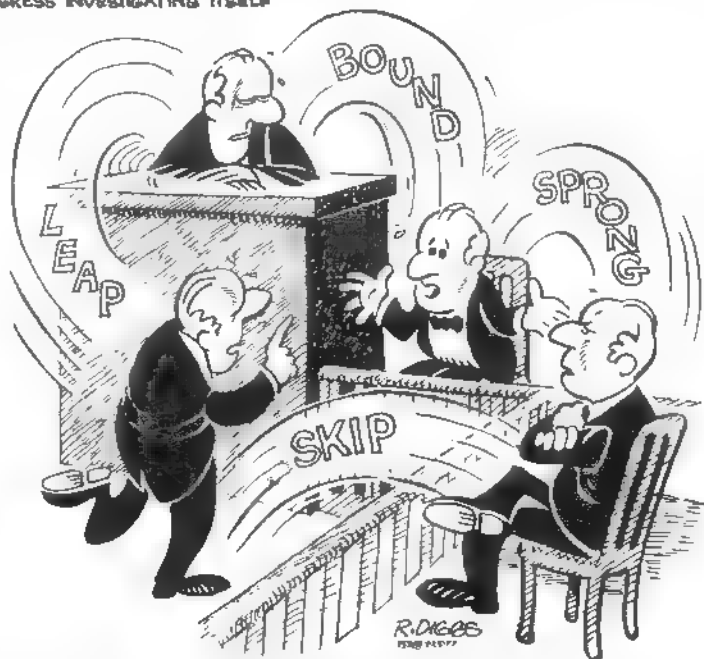


In 1977 Congress was dreaming of a bright new year when the ghosts of parties past, also cash, free gifts and trips to South Korea, suddenly took the glory out. When rice merchant Tongsun Park left town, he left \$9 million in gifts and a dawning awareness that a Foreign Power was trying to undermine our government, with our money!



The arrival of Leon Jaworski in his old role as Special Prosecutor was proof that the situation was getting serious. He is remembered as the tough arbiter of law who guided Nixon out of office, past the law, and into bucolic retirement. Most House members, on the other hand, would settle for a quiet pardon. The indictments are still pending.





The discovery of Operation White Snow and Operation Ice Mountain might explain public antipathy toward the antics on the hill. However twenty now admitted and many yet unnamed congressional conspirators promise more fun.

WELL, TELL CARTER IF HE CUTS FUNDS TO KOREA - WE CUT OFF FUNDS TO CONGRESS!

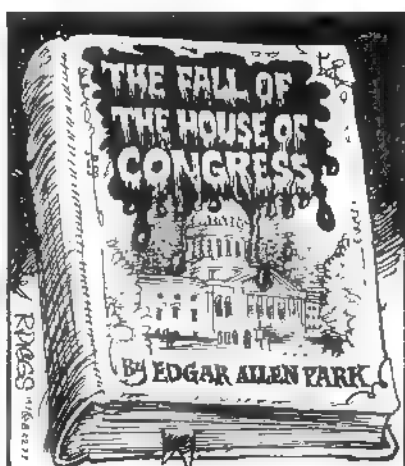
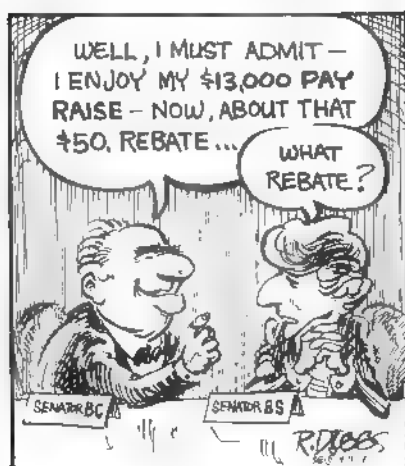


SOUTH KOREA HAS BEEN SO BUSY TRYING TO: INVOLVE US IN WARS, SUBVERT OUR YOUTH, AND UNDERMINE OUR GOVERNMENT; THAT I WANT TO GIVE YOU 800 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF ARMAMENTS ABSOLUTLY FREE!

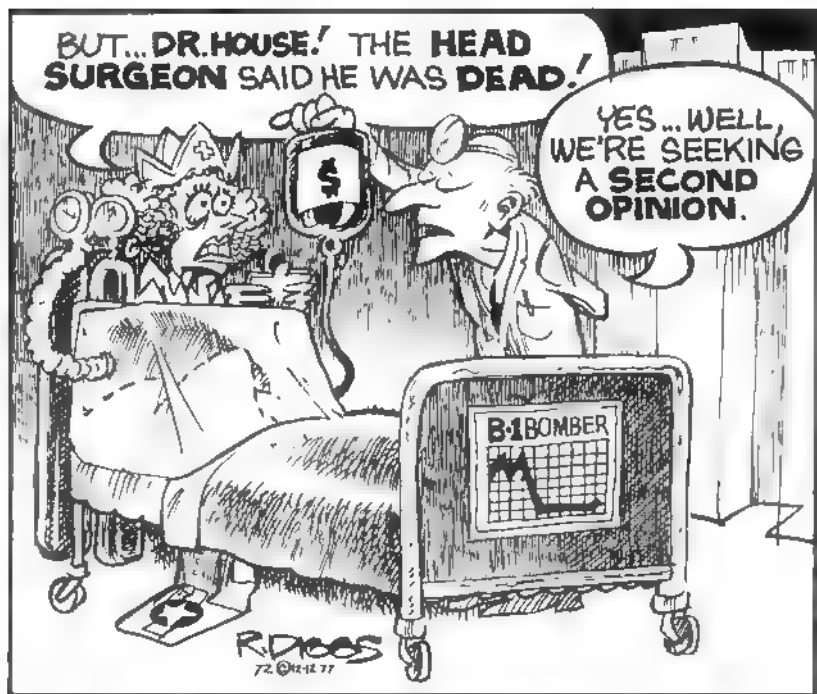
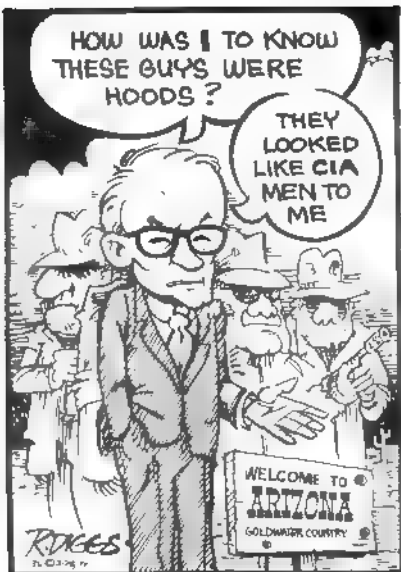


A cartoon by Dave Coverly. A man in a plaid shirt and hat is looking at a door labeled "HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS". The door is being kicked open, with a sign that says "CRASH THUD". A speech bubble from the man says, "MY! THEY SEEM TO BE DOING A BRISK BUSINESS". A small figure is visible in a doorway to the right.





In other matters Congress proved that with a populist President in the White House, they could provide all the roadblocks to social justice themselves. The consumer bill, which passed twice to Ford vetoes, can't get through again. The President's much-heralded tax rebate is debated to a slow death. Social Security taxes are increased, passed and signed. That is, the 95th Congress muddled through much like the other 94.





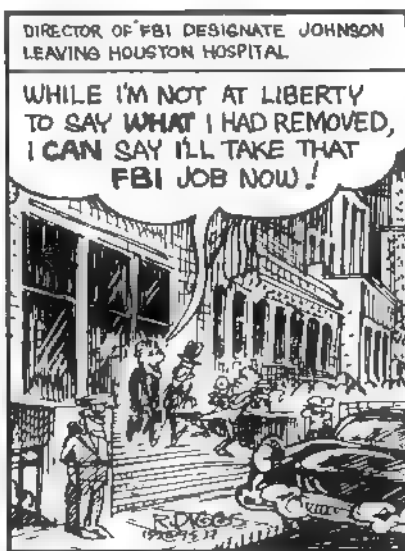
While members of Congress wearily groped for agreement on an energy plan, they actively fought aid to abortions. Both Houses championed the rights of our embryonic citizens. But only the poor unborn. As the President says, "Life is unfair."





1977 was a bonanza year for the aficionados of our secret government. Largely due to that monument to Richard Nixon, the Freedom of Information Act, facts of intense interest became public knowledge. Exciting terms like COINTELPRO and MK-ULTRA made their appearance. Sinister skeletons of the past, yours, mine, everybody's, were found lurking in secret files. This reassured many who feared they had been victims of paranoid persecution fantasies. Now, they realize they had merely been victims.

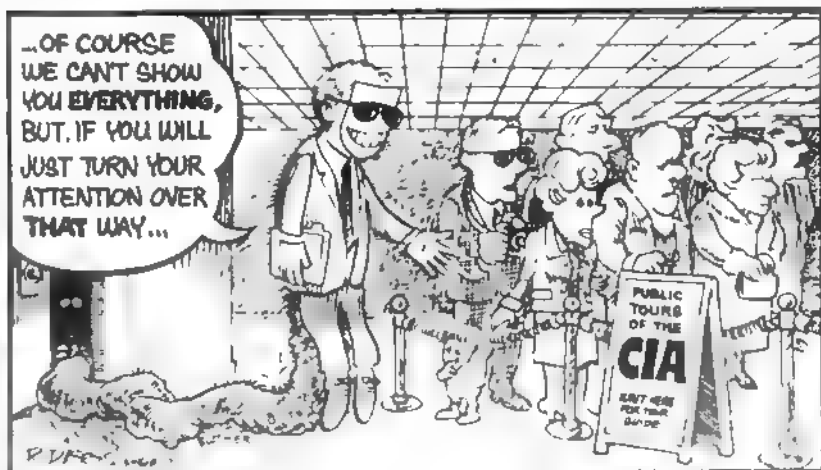




One outstanding characteristic of the FBI all year was its operating without a permanent head. True, Clarence Kelley was there, but Carter and Attorney General Bell had hoped to get their own man. They thought Judge Johnson was it, but it seems the background briefings caused a medical relapse. At last report, the agency rushed on with nothing upstairs.

The CIA, under Stansfield Turner, staunchly defended its budget and its whereabouts. Open House at its Langley, Va. headquarters was seen as the deception it was, and

soon dropped. The discovery that King Hussein of Jordan had been an agent for 20 years was a bit too much. But in general, the press on the CIA, shocking as it was, held few surprises.





All in all, it was an embarrassing year for the I-Spy people. Revelations proved that the average mobster involved in drugs, guns and prostitution was a rank amateur compared to "company" standards. The army's battles on the frontiers of chemistry were no less daring. An arsenal of acid was apparently prepared to strike down our enemies. Now, the army, like all the others, assures us that this doesn't happen anymore.

# JOIN THE NEW ACID ARMY AND...



## SEE THE

# UNIVERSE!

R. D. JONES 1977

WHEN IT COMES TO  
MILITARY UNIONS, WE  
WANT THEM **OUTLAWED!**

**ABSOLUTELY!**  
WHY..THEY'RE LIKE  
GIVING YOUR **GUN**  
A CONSCIENCE!

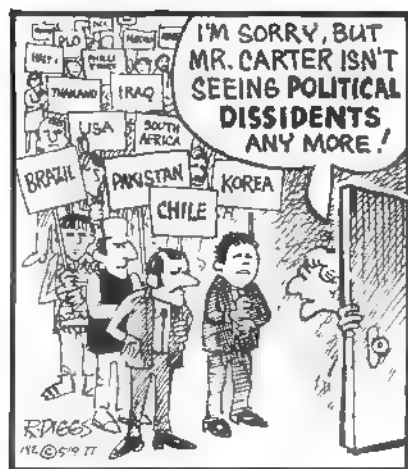




Our nation's defenders were in the news for other reasons as well. There was the effort to finally withdraw from Korea and Jimmy Carter's post-Inaugural declaration of amnesty for 13,000 Vietnam draft-evaders. This ignored some 100,000 deserters and 250,000 more who didn't even register. This success of this program was typical of Carter's handling of sensitive issues. Big hopes, big announcements, big flash in the pan.







SUPREME COURT APPROVES  
CORPORAL PUNISHMENT  
IN SCHOOLS

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

I DIDN'T  
DO IT!  
I DIDN'T DO IT  
I DIDN'T DO IT

WHAT A  
SHAME...  
IF YOU WERE  
A CROOK WE  
WOULDN'T LET  
HIM DO IT!

RDIGGS  
MAY 1977

The Supreme Court in 1977 was burdened by the long-term effects of presidential appointments during the Nixon era. Children, women, minorities all felt the rap of the judgmental gavel in 1977.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

FEAR NOT  
CHILD...WE'LL  
HAVE YOU  
EXORCISED  
IN NO TIME!

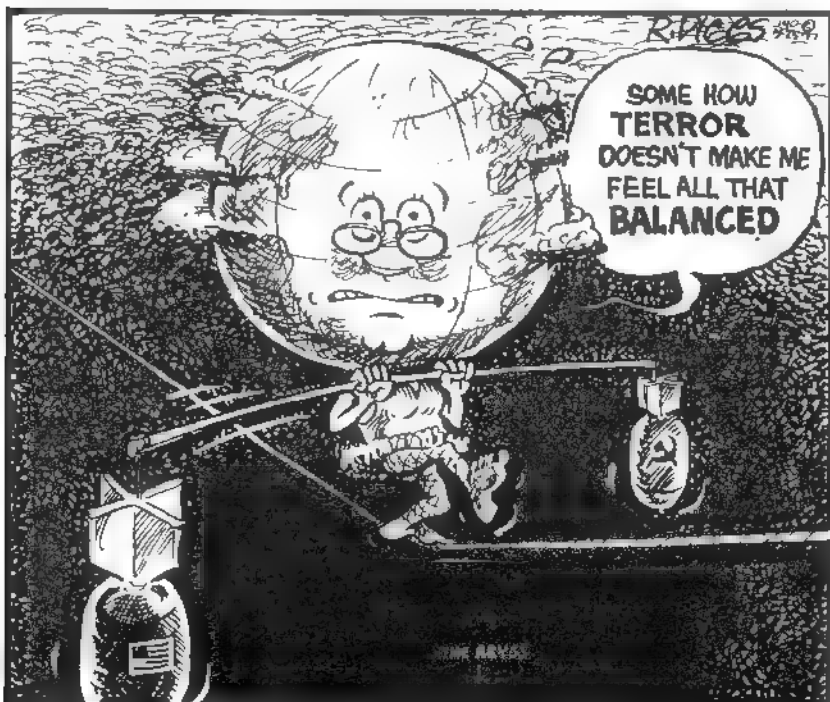
RDIGGS  
MAY 1977



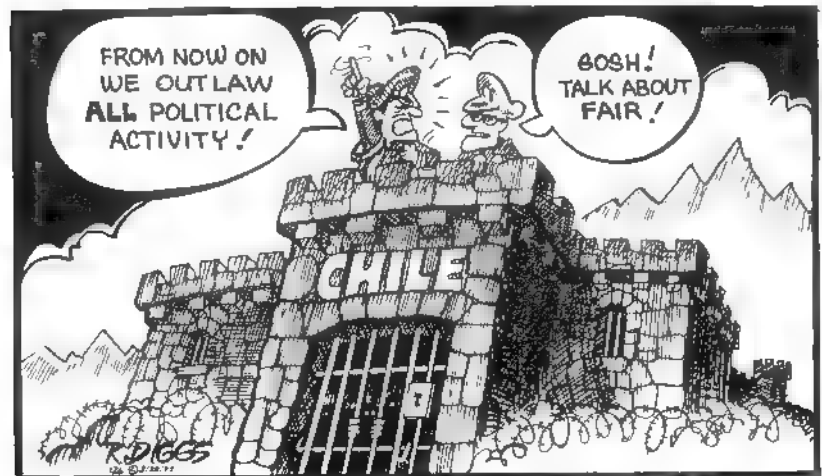
While the high court waits for a scandal of its own, judges who equate rape with promiscuity are finding themselves out of robe and office.

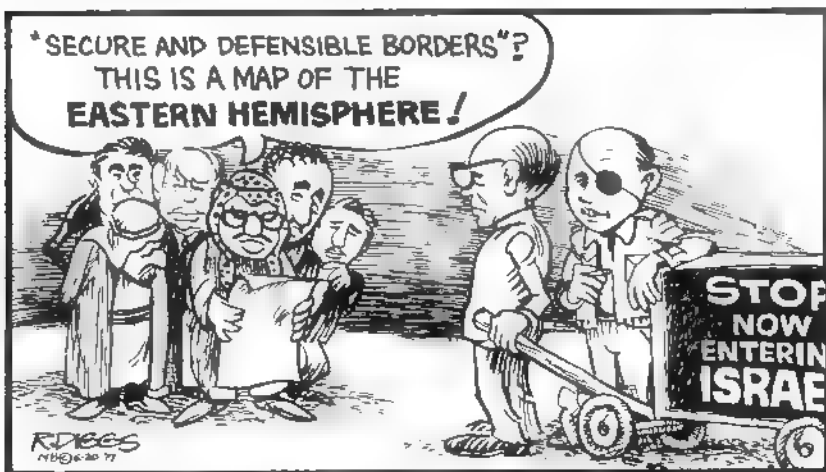


The world at large had to settle for small wars in 1977. Those in power could not be faulted, however. Nearly 10 billion dollars worth of U.S. weapons were added to the world's arsenal, primarily in Iran, and many impassioned pleas were made for peace.



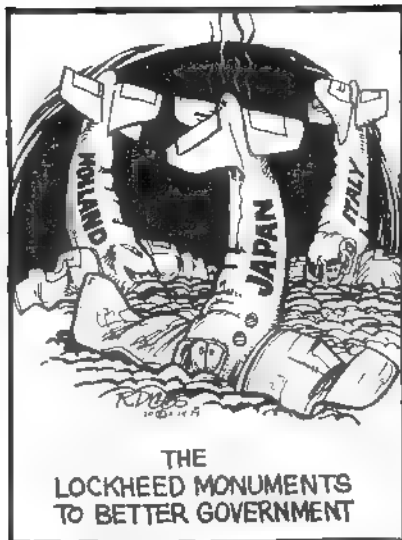
ON US-VIET RELATIONS





**Certain categories overlap.** For instance, bribes and scandals common to politics were made international by the business community. And spying, so much a concern here at home, is losing friends abroad as well.

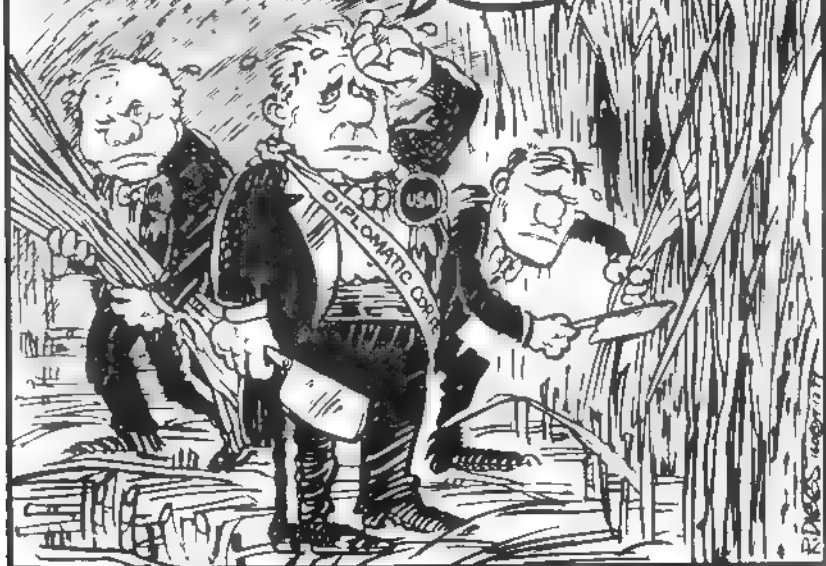




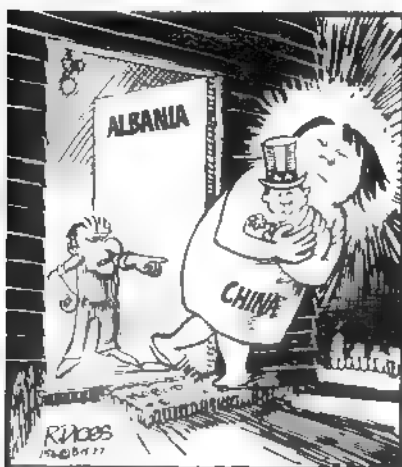
The dialogues between the "haves" and "have-nots" in Paris in 1977 point up the new understanding that our progressive age brings us. Nothing came of it.



I MUST ADMIT, THIS ISN'T  
THE CUBA I REMEMBER!



ALBANIA



Africa was front page material all year Carter's choice of Andy Young for the U.N. insured high visibility for the problems of black Africa. South Africa did its part by dramatically escalating those problems.

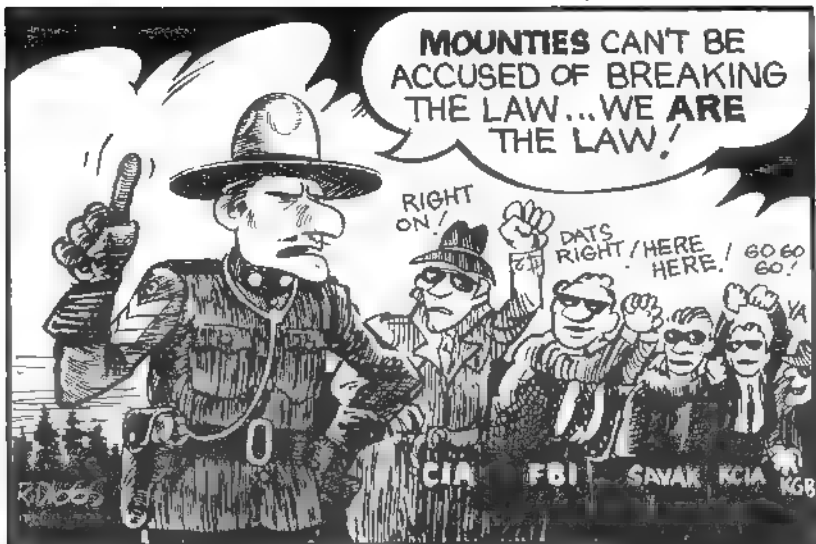
Meanwhile, Ian Smith of Zimbabwe ended the year by offering the vote to his country's black majority, obviously a move based on desperation





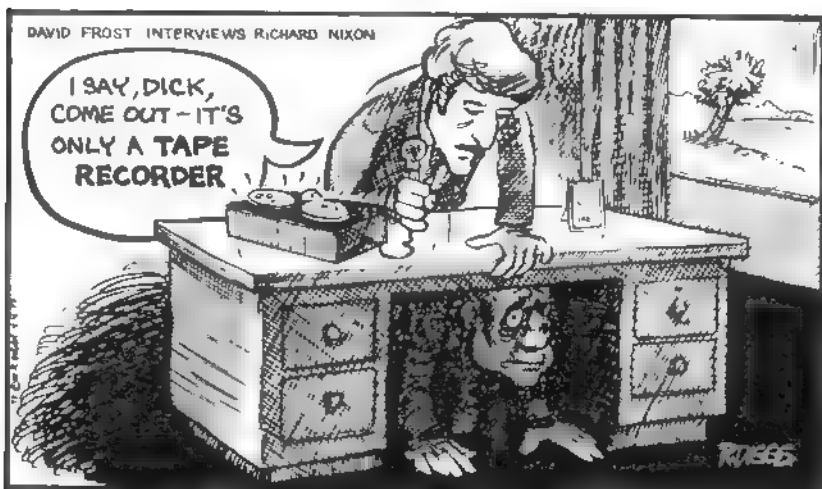
As in all years, great and historic trips were made by heads of state and their underlings. Besides jet lag, few results have been observed, however.

The Peace Officers of the free world stand ever ready to give up justice itself to protect our democratic way of life.



Still, the struggle creates refugees. Those with too much cash to share come to New York City.

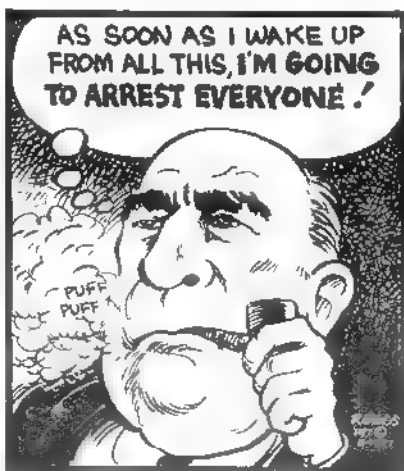


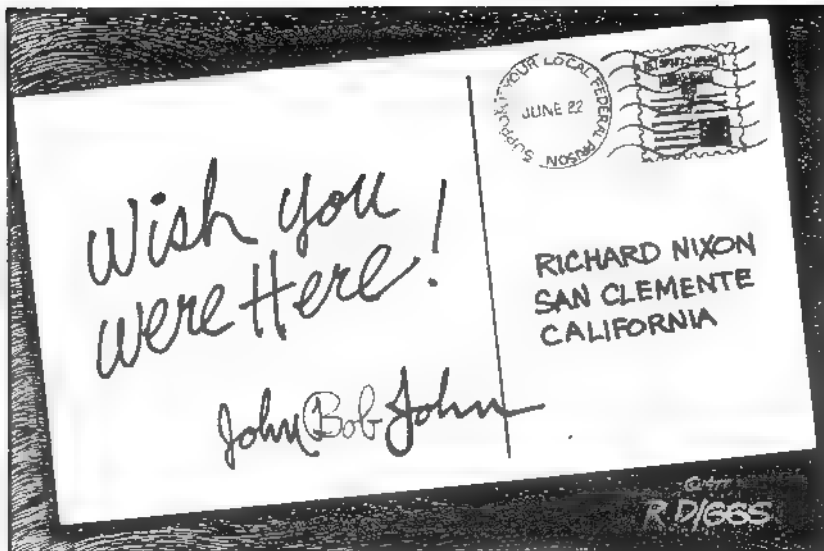


**Theatrically**, the low point of the year (despite its potential for self-indulgence, self-righteousness and dramatic revelation) was Richard Nixon's return to the tube. Urged on by his need for love and approval, plus approximately one million dollars, Nixon squirmed to rapidly dropping audiences and indifferent reviews.

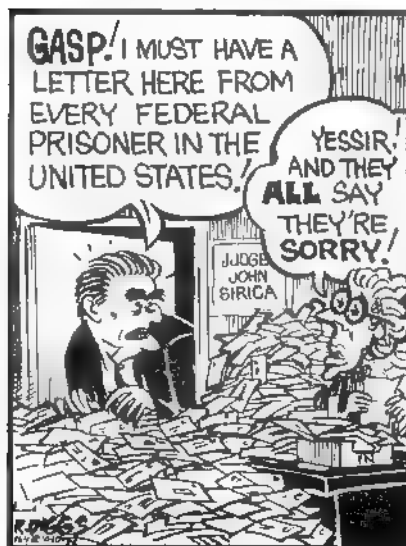


Far more appealing to the general public was the forthright action of the law when it faced the rest of that famous cast of characters known as the Watergate defendants. There was a certain uncontained glee in some circles when such "outstanding public servants" as John Erlichmann, Bob Haldeman and former Attorney-General of the United States John Mitchell learned that hardly anyone can escape justice in this great land of ours. At least not them.



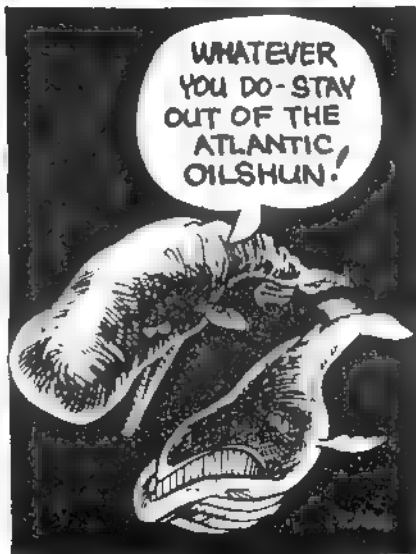


The joker, of course, was that once these admitted felons were in prison, they immediately realized how sorry they were. Naturally, they sat right down and wrote these feelings to the mean old judge who had sent them there. The touching outcome is that they'll only serve a year or so of minimum security. Naturally.





From the very first, 1977 was up to its eyeballs in spilled oil. The Argo Merchant's 7.6 million gallons of very crude increased the giant oil ball of the Atlantic by a full 1%. Right through December supertankers of unknowable ownership continued to crash, collide, burn and sink. Despite the losses, oil company profits continued to soar.



RED! THANK GOD!  
YOU'VE STOPPED  
AN ECOLOGICAL  
DISASTER!

AH SHUCKS,  
AIN'T NO  
BIG THING..

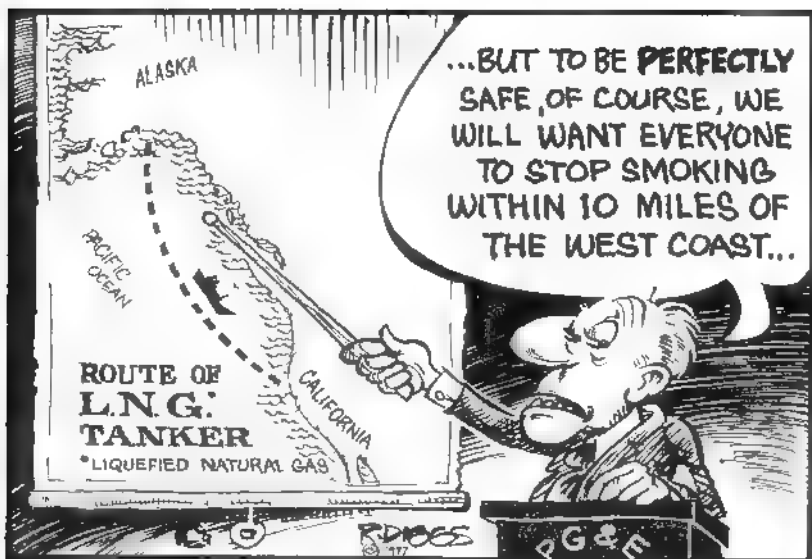
...IT HAPPENS  
ALL THE TIME !



...BUT TO BE PERFECTLY  
SAFE, OF COURSE, WE  
WILL WANT EVERYONE  
TO STOP SMOKING  
WITHIN 10 MILES OF  
THE WEST COAST...

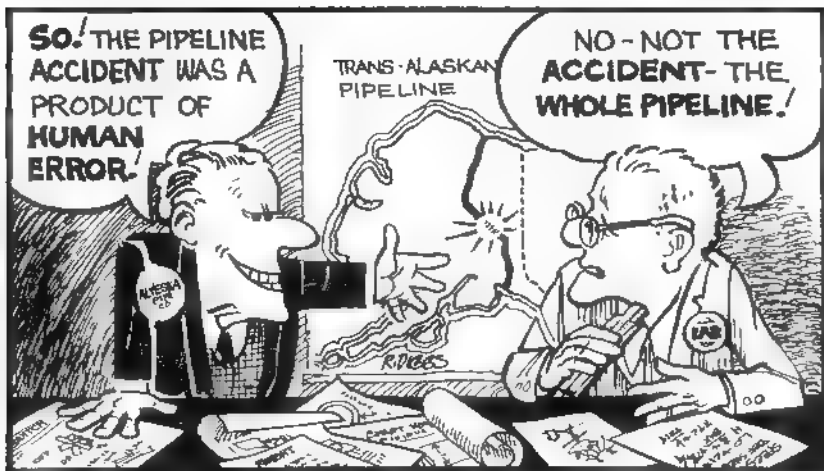
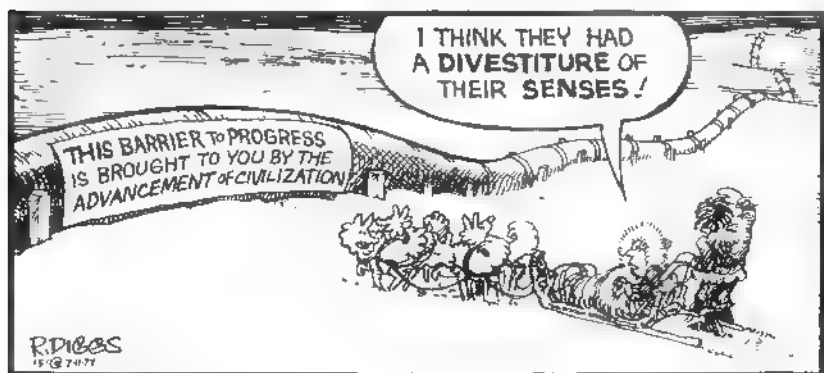
ROUTE OF  
L.N.G.  
TANKER

\*LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS





Happily there are alternatives to an oil slick where a ship once was. Pipelines also threaten the environment, but unlike tankers are much safer for sailors.





Beyond mere problems of profit and loss was the dawning knowledge of the cost of industry itself, in life and death terms.



**PETRO-CHEMICAL  
GROWTH RATE**



**CANCER  
DEATH RATE**



...AND SO, I  
CONCLUDE,  
WITH THIS  
**WARNING!**  
**MAXIMIZE**  
**YOUR PROFITS**  
WHILE THERE IS  
**STILL TIME!**

R. DIGGS © 1977

U.S. SCHOOL OF  
ECONOMICS

**URP!**

**BIG OIL**

IT SAYS IT  
WANTS MORE  
INCENTIVES!

R. DIGGS  
5400-177



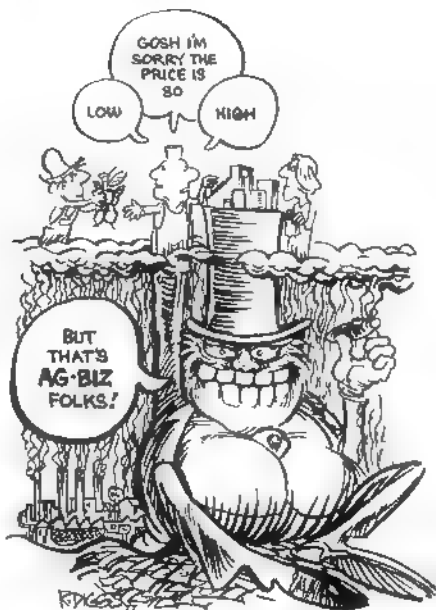
There's always atomic energy. But then, who wants to say I'm sorry for 250,000 years?



Again in '77, industrial assembly line methods that don't work on cars were applied to farming with the enthusiasm of a bull market.









Fortunately, for those who fret about such things as their own health, the government oversees most of the potentially dangerous substances and research in our environment. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem to be doing any good.






**GREAT NEWS! WE  
HAVE DISCOVERED THE  
ULTIMATE WEAPON!  
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!**

MEANWHILE AT THE STATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FACILITY:



**HEY! I JUST  
THOUGHT OF  
SOMETHING  
THAT NEITHER  
EXPLODES NOR  
AIDS PRIVATE  
INDUSTRY!**

**OH WELL,  
BACK TO THE  
DRAWING  
BOARDS!**



**NOW DON'T WORRY,  
DNA RESEARCH  
IS JUST AS SAFE  
AS SCIENCE AND  
GOVERNMENT  
COMBINED!**

**OH, AND  
INDUSTRY**



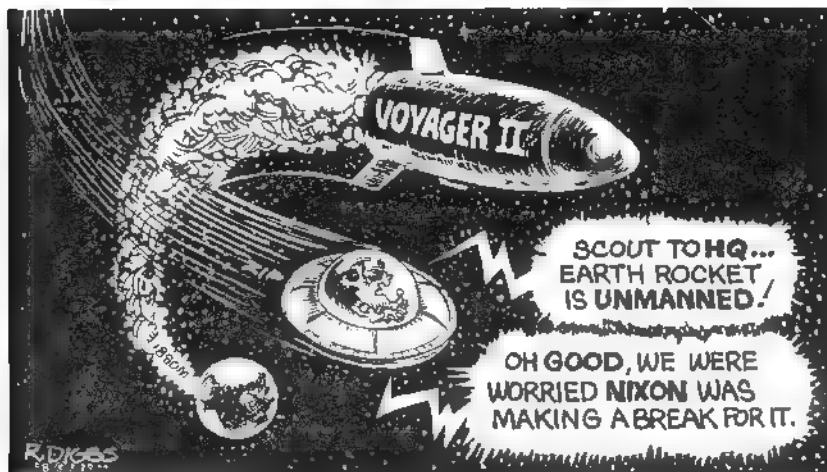
Even in medicine, that last bastion of public goodwill, revelations of costs and procedures damaged the health industry's self-image.





1977 also distinguished itself by showing us yet more holes in our sieve-like defenses against cancer. Laetrile made some headway, but hardly anyone thinks it works. Banning industry hasn't even been considered.

News from the farthest frontiers included complete failure to discover life on Mars (which would have required a crash program to save it) and the start of the space shuttle program (conserving a little while spending a lot). Space probes, depth probes, you name it and in 1977 it was probably ending up in your food chain. This was the year dangerous pesticides banned in U.S. agriculture were sold to third world countries, only to be returned to the U.S. consumer on her coffee beans.





The ecological disaster area continues to spread. The concept of progress as a slow poison is gaining ground, however, and hope remains that ice cream will still be made with milk. In other victories, it was a bad year for red dyes, whatever their number.





MOVE IT  
**ECO-FREAK!**

YOU ARE  
WHAT YOU  
DRIVE!

**HONK**

R. DIGGS  
11/2/74

GOSH MOM! SINCE  
YOU'VE LEARNED TO  
READ I'VE BEEN  
STARVING TO  
DEATH!

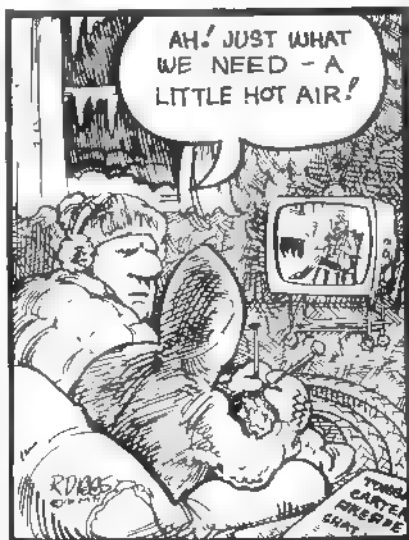
R. DIGGS  
6/23/77

HERE YOU GO KID! REAL IMITATION OLD  
FASHIONED IMITATION HOME MADE IMITATION  
STRAWBERRY ICE IMITATION CREAM!

FDA APPROVED

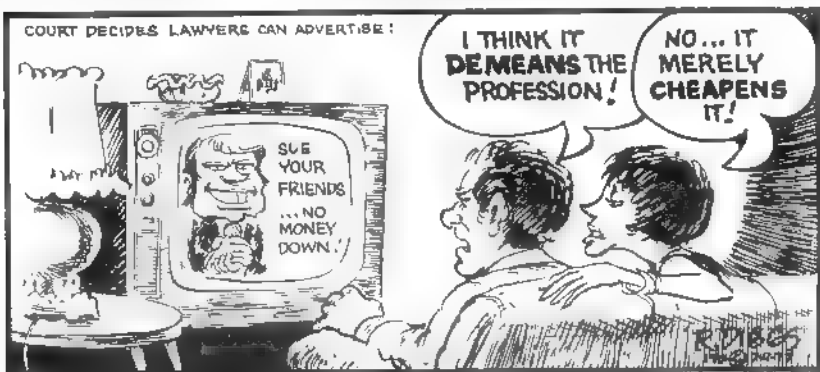
R. DIGGS  
11/2/77

**We have come at last** to that rich but vaguely defined section of all great collections. Those great events which didn't conveniently fit in any place else. Take, for instance, the weather. Mother Nature seemed as though she were trying to evict a tenant for unpaid rent. Everywhere, USA was either cold as hell, hot as hell, wet as hell, or dry as hell.





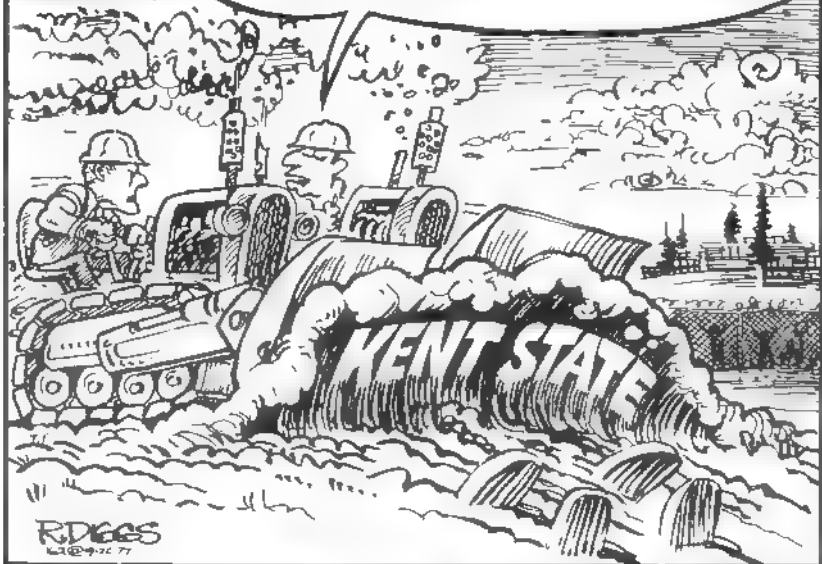
Another shocker of '77 was the reported drop in T.V. viewing. Worried researchers are still trying to determine if this is true or the results of poor procedure.



The stock market fell faster than the President's popularity. "ROOTS" gave a lesson in black American history to 30 million people and reports suggest that porpoises have learned to avoid tuna nets. U.S. victims of the Nixon era "Operation Cooperation" in Mexican jails were released to U.S. prisons.



...TO BE PERFECTLY FAIR I GUESS  
WE OUGHTA BUILD A DANCE HALL AT  
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY!



IT'S OKAY -  
WE FEED 'EM  
ORANGES





After 13 years negotiators signed a new Panama Canal treaty, as yet unratified. Opponents have just begun to fight. 1977 was the year in which a titanic struggle between the western powers finally resulted in the Concorde landing at New York's Kennedy International Airport. Idi Amin and the Gang of Four were vilified while the world learned the shocking truth that repressive regimes kill political prisoners. Responding to this naivete the modern terrorist of 1977 has been credited with adopting suicide as the latest offensive weapon against the state.





OH, I'M SURE  
WE CAN HARNESS  
SOLAR POWER --  
BUT CAN WE  
CONTROL IT?

TROUBLE IS, YOU  
ENVIRONMENTALISTS  
DON'T UNDERSTAND  
THE IMPORTANCE  
OF **JOBS!**



WE'VE MADE ONE  
FINAL REFINEMENT  
IN OUR **BEER**, BUT  
NOW I DON'T THINK  
WE CAN **SELL** IT!

OH YAH!  
WHY **NOT**?

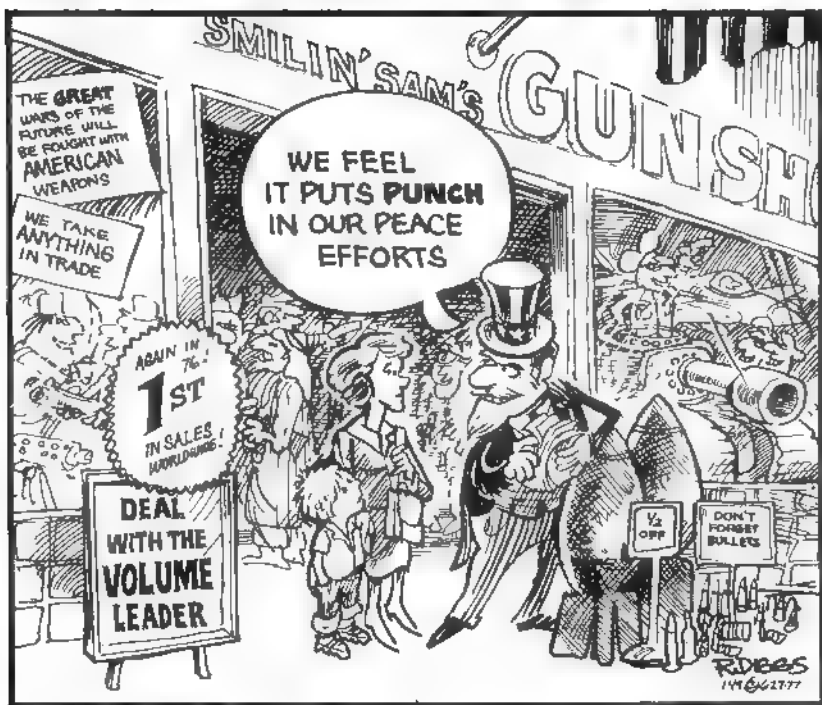
IT'S  
WATER!



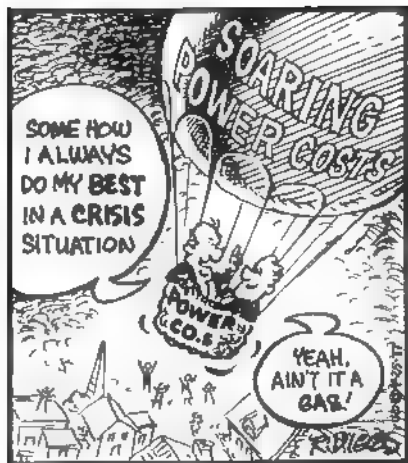
**GIGANTICO BEER**  
RESEARCH DEPT

HEY! I DON'T KNOW  
ABOUT THIS NEW I.Q.  
TEST...WHAT'S A  
"CHITTERLING"?

WELL I'LL BE  
DAMNED! I GUESS  
WHITEY IS JUST  
NATURALLY STUPID!







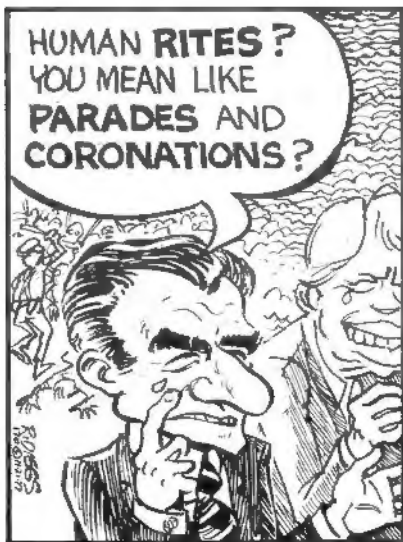
As 1977 draws to its inevitable end, most of us continue to cope. For if it is true that history is written by the victors, it is read by the survivors.

—R. Diggs '77

STOP IT KIDS! I DON'T WANT  
YOU HAVING **SUGAR** BEFORE  
BREAKFAST, WHEN THAT'S WHAT  
YOU'RE HAVING **FOR** BREAKFAST!



HUMAN RITES?  
YOU MEAN LIKE  
**PARADES** AND  
**CORONATIONS**?



THANKS FOR  
THE **JOB** YOUR  
SHAH-NESS,  
I HAPPEN TO  
**NEED** ONE!

MY PLEASURE,  
MR. HELMS!  
**TRULY** CRASS,  
DECEITFUL  
MEN ARE **HARD**  
TO FIND!





WHAT'S THIS?  
A RE-MAKE OF  
**2001?**

OUT OF  
GAS

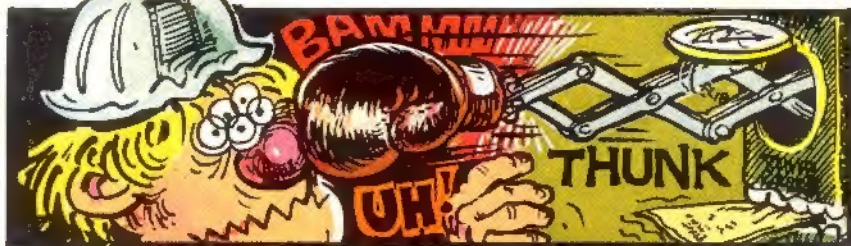
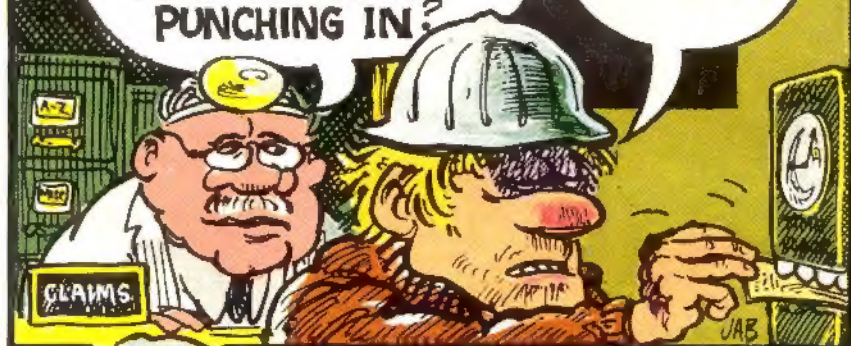
TRY  
**1984!**

TIRE  
FURNITURE

RDG665  
1/79

WE CAN UNDER-  
STAND THAT A **FATAL**  
DISEASE MIGHT BE  
TRAUMATIC, BUT GOSH,  
FELLA ... JUST  
**PUNCHING IN?**

BELIEVE  
ME, DOC...



... IT CAN  
GET TO YOU  
AFTER A  
WHILE!



ALL THE LATEST

**DIGGS** of **77**





**Sir Real's**

**UNDERGROUND  
COMIX CLASSIX**

## **Great Diggs of 77**

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**2 - Monster of the Year**

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### **Artists:**

**Harry Driggs (= "R. Driggs") - 1-3, 5-68**

**Danice Bordett - 4(Intro+)**

**Larry Lee - 4(Intro+)**

### **Comments:**

**Political cartoons pertaining to the past year's events.**